

original cause for half the marital maladjustments and three-fourths of the divorces and desertions. We in medicine, therefore, are called upon to do our part to persuade morals to wed normals, to induce theology to adopt biology, to integrate within a workable code of ethics a sane science of sex."

This is a singular book in many respects. It encompasses an immense number of observations gathered during many years of a busy practice. It contains facts about female sex anatomy together with those of the male in the same volume, and it correlates them. It is exhaustive in its scope. It is well and abundantly illustrated by several artists and by the author who is no mean artist in his own right. It contains factual information free of sensual details and exaggerations and it presents the links in the chain of sex functions in an orderly way and without apology.

The first edition (1933) must have been in demand sufficiently to prompt the publishers to venture another and better edition. Your reviewer recalls that the first edition had difficulty in gaining recognition but evidently did after the value of the Atlas became recognized. In the second edition some new material concerned with the function of the male sex organ and spermatogenesis has been added. There are various references to Kinsey's book on sex behavior in the male and the author contrasts his observation with those of Kinsey. Here and there minor changes have been made in the text and in the illustrative material, but in general there are no great changes in the substance of the book.

Dickinson's Atlas, by its very nature, has a limited usefulness. Marriage and family counsellors, students of sex and infertility, psychologists and anybody interested in the problems of procreation and copulation will find this book of interest. It is not a book for prudes nor for the mentally immature and does not belong on the parlor table.

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**GREEN'S MANUAL OF PATHOLOGY.** Revised by H. W. C. Vines, M.A., M.D., Professor of Pathology, University of London, Dean, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. 17th Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$8.00.

This book is a clear presentation of the classical lesions of pathologic anatomy, and there are notes on the functional significance of many of these as well as discussions of pathogenesis in an effort to emphasize the dynamic nature of disease processes. Emphasis is placed upon systemic pathology, and much less than half of the book is devoted to general pathology. This leads to considerable fragmentation of the discussions of diseases like tuberculosis which affect many different organs.

Principal attention is given to well-defined diseases and the presentations are inclined to be dogmatic. Allusions are made to investigative work but no lists of references are given. The illustrations on the whole are well chosen and good. The text should be useful in teaching beginning students in pathology but it would not be a very satisfactory reference book.

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**DISTRICT NURSING—A Handbook for District Nurses and for All Concerned in the Administration of a District Nursing Service.** Eleanor Jeanette Merry, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.S.P., H.V. Cert. Education Officer, Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and Iris Dundas Irven, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. of R.S.I., Superintendent Worcester City Nursing Administration. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1948. \$4.00.

To practitioners in a country continuously disturbed by cries of the high cost of hospitalization, this comprehensive little manual will strike a note of deep interest. Many of the practices described in it are no longer customary in the larger cities of this land, but if ever we return to realistic

financing of our state and national debt, it is not improbable that many of them will come back.

The manual is divided into 19 chapters, and ranges through a short history of district nursing, the organization of one of the London institutes of district nursing and suggestions for the training and conduct of district nurses. There are useful chapters on record keeping, simple nursing techniques, and home nursing of certain special diseases. There are illustrated sections on the performance of simple deliveries, simple tonsillectomy and so forth in the home, with suggestions for the district nurse's duties.

There are excellent chapters on the simpler elements of nutrition, family health teaching and the prevention of accidents in the home.

Finally there is a brief discussion of social insurance, vital statistics and the operation of the National Health Service Act.

Every general practitioner and most practitioners in smaller or rural areas are thoroughly familiar with the large amount of competent medical care which may be given in the patient's home, especially if a visiting nurse is available. Well organized district nurses' groups and general medical practitioners will find the manual of value. This reviewer would suggest that there should be a glossary of terms commonly used in Great Britain with suitable translation for readers in the U. S. A. Such terms as "Jeyes' fluid," "Benger's" and "Marmite" are household words in England, but would probably be unintelligible to the average Usanian. The book is neatly printed, of convenient size and readable.

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**OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—A Synoptic Guide to Treatment.** By Beatrice M. Willmott Dobbie, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S., D.M.R.E., Honorary Surgeon, Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women. With 22 illustrations. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper and Brothers, New York, 1949. \$5.50.

The book is of mediocre quality and contains nothing of any particular value.

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**MODERN PRACTICE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY—1949.** Edited by H. B. Stallard, M.B.E., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., Surgeon, Moorfields, Westminster and Central Eye Hospital, London. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1949. \$12.50.

This book is one of a series of medical books published under the general editorship of Lord Horder under the group title of "Modern Practice Series." As pointed out in the preface, the purpose of the book is "to give the general practitioner an outline of the modern practice of ophthalmology. It is intended to be a guide to which he may refer when he shares with the eye specialist the responsibility of treating a case of ocular disease and when it falls to his lot to deal with a case in some remote part where there is inevitable delay in obtaining the advice of a consultant."

The book, written under the editorship of H. B. Stallard, assisted by 13 contributors, is midway in its scope between the small textbook usually used by medical students and the textbooks for the student or practitioner of ophthalmology.

The material is arranged in the accepted manner employed in textbooks and on the whole is well chosen, going into sufficient detail to be of value to the practitioner but without doing so to the extent that the subject becomes confusing. The book contains 231 black-and-white, well-chosen and well-printed illustrations. The 30 color plates are excellent as to the choice and the printing. The comprehensive index is particularly noteworthy.

While the selection of material, in general, is excellent, one wonders if the 56 pages devoted to refractions are justified in a book of this type. It would seem better to devote this space to more detailed accounts of treatment of ocular conditions, especially the emergency treatment of ocular

injuries. While the book was written by various contributors it would seem wise to have all the therapeutic recommendations either in the metric or apothecary system rather than a mixture of the two.

The quality of the paper, the printing and the binding are outstanding.

The book should be a very welcome addition to the library of the general practitioner who may at times have to care for eye cases.

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**SURGERY OF THE HAND.** By Sterling Bunnell, M.D. Second Edition. Philadelphia, London and Montreal. J. H. Lippincott Co., 1948.

This book had to be written some time, and it was magnificently achieved first in 1944, and again in 1948 by the same author, internationally recognized as the master surgeon in this field. The development of surgery of the hand to its present high degree has been due in large measure to his unique skill in the three divisions of surgery most concerned in reconstruction of the hand: Plastic surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery. His ability to treat the hand as an entity, to correct all the disabilities involved, led over the years to a remarkable development of fundamental principles, of ingenious methods and devices, of brilliantly conceived innovations which promise the present maximum possible reconstruction of the badly maimed hand.

From the first chapters on the phylogeny and comparative and normal anatomy of the hand, subjects to which the author brings unique and instructive information, to the making of new thumbs and the transplantation of tendons and nerves, the book is replete with suggestions and methods of great value to every surgeon who is engaged in caring for fresh injuries, burns and infections of the hand, or who is interested in restoring to as complete normality as possible the hand maimed or crippled by these various types of trauma.

Particularly important and instructive are the sections on skin grafting, on the preparation of pedicles, on the transplantation of bones, nerves, even whole fingers, on the restoration of prehension in the absence of a thumb, on the immediate care of infections of the hand and fingers and on the use of anatomically sound incisions which will not increase the residual disabilities that frequently spring from such infections and which can be reduced to a minimum by proper care at the moment of injury or at the time when drainage becomes necessary.

Also, the ingenious methods employed by Bunnell and his associates to correct congenital malformations of the hand are excellently portrayed. The presentation of tumors of the hand by Dr. L. D. Howard, Jr., adds a distinctive and important chapter to the surgical understanding of the hand.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by numerous excellent illustrations that tell, better than words, the meth-

ods and devices employed in securing the best possible function as well as the best appearance of the restored hand.

Patients and surgeons alike will reap untold benefit from this truly monumental work, which makes available to present and succeeding generations the many experiences and the abundant technical knowledge acquired in the lifetime of a busy and talented surgical genius who for many years has made reconstruction, particularly of the crippled hand, his paramount interest.

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**DIABETES AND ITS TREATMENT.** By Joseph H. Barach, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh. Oxford University Press, New York, 1949. \$10.00.

"This book was not written for Charles Best, the co-discoverer of insulin, nor for the many other research scientists and clinicians who are outstanding authorities in this field. This book offers the general medical man a clinical approach to an understanding of the disease and its treatment." (Preface, p. viii.)

While the former statement is probably quite true, this reviewer does not believe that the latter statement has been well met. The first chapter deals with the history of diabetes and is good in that the many early workers in the field are adequately covered by a brief statement. However, as we get further into the book this fine attribute of a brief and adequate coverage is lost, and we must consider many paragraphs to pick out the basic ideas that have been expressed. Many aspects of the disease are covered in great detail, and as such are interesting to the specialist. But for the general practitioner and the student, the mass of detail accompanying each principle tends to negate the value of these principles and impress one that this is an almost hopelessly complex disease.

Included in the book are some 180 pages of diets and recipes whose value as stated is their easy reference by the patient. This seems unnecessary, for many of the diets vary little from each other in the number of calories but get their variety in altering the ratios of protein, fat, and carbohydrate, which for most patients complicates the picture even more.

The author's concept of the use of salt in heart disease and hypertension is fallacious in that he recommends use of intravenous salt solution for patients with heart disease of Grades I and II and Ringer solution for those with Grades III and IV and again in his recommendation of Eka as a salt substitute in hypertension (Eka is a combination of sodium citrate and sodium malleate).

On the whole, while the author maintains a scholarly and broadminded attitude on the controversial points in present day diabetic management, it is difficult to see where this book helps the average practitioner in the treatment of patients.

